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Do you believe in the aliens from Space?

ALDERSHOT shoppers had a close encounter with an "astronaut" probing local views on an alien invasion.

Mr. Jim Boyce, from London, dressed in a silver suit and space helmet, stopped shoppers in Victoria Road.

He is one of two "space-men" touring Britain, and the results of their survey will go to the House of Lords Unidentified Flying Object study group in London.

The inquiries, into whether people think an invasion by another life form is possible and whether East and West would unite and survive, follow publication of a science-fiction book, "Battlefield Earth" by L. Ron Hubbard.

There have been continued reports of unidentified flying objects in this area; the latest on Bagshot Heath in September, when a family said they saw a strange machine which they believed was an alien spacecraft.

Local UFO expert Mr. Omar Fowler thinks the area is entering a "flap" — the word used to describe a sudden increase in sightings — after a period of inactivity.

But he believes aliens coming here are not hostile.